International Cooperation for the development of Buddhist Centres in that State to attract foreign tourists in a bigway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the entire work is likely to be completed; and

(c) to what extent and how Central Government propose to assist the State Government in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) A loan agreement has been signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for an amount of 9495 million Japanese Yen for the development of Buddhist Circuit in Uttar Pradesh. The scope of work under this project will include road and utilities improvement, site development, supporting programmes and consultancy services. The project is expected to be completed by December, 2011. While Ministry of Toursim, Government of India will be the executing agency of the project. Department of Tourism Government of Uttar Pradesh will be required to act as a coodinating agency on behalf of the State Government.

Facilities for Indian tourism industry

† 283. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism places of the country have gained attraction of tourists across the world as a result of which the number of foreign tourists arriving in India has increased one and a half fold in the year 2005 compared to the last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign tourists have to face difficulties and hesitation on their arrival in the country despite such attraction because of persisting problems in the absence of tourism structural facilities; and

(c) if so, what is the view point of Government for promotion of Indian tourism industry and comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Promotional efforts of the Ministry of Tourism in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

overseas markets have generated wide spread awareness about the tourist attractions of the country, resulting in an increase of 26.8% during 2004 and 13.2% during 2005 in foreign tourist arrivals to the country. Foreign Exchange earnings during the same period increased by 35% and 20.2% respectively in US dollar terms.

(b) and (c) In collaboration with other Ministries/State Governments and the private sector, the Ministry of Tourism has initiated several steps to improve tourism infrastructural facilities for augmenting air seat and airport capacity, rail and road connectivity to tourist destinations, etc. Incentives are being provided to increase hotel room capacity in the budget category. A social awareness campaign - 'Atithi Devo Bhava' has been launched to sensitise stakeholders in the tourism industry about the need to treat tourists with care and courtesy. Capacity building programmes have been taken up to train service providers in tourism and related sectors.

Projects for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh

† 284. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas in Uttar Pradesh identified by Government during the year 2005-06 for development of tourism;

(b) the details of projects formulated by Government for development of the said areas; and

(c) whether Government have made any budgetary allocation in this regard; if so, the datails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The details of projects sanctioned for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(c) No amount is earmarked for development of any place. Project proposals received from the State Governments that are complete in all respect are processed on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.